



27 MAR, 2026

## Approval pending for Anjung Kasih expansion

New Sarawak Tribune, Malaysia



**KUCHING:** Renovation works to convert the former nurses' quarters here into an Anjung Kasih facility are still pending formal approval from the Sarawak government and the Welfare Department, said Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

The federal Women, Family and Community Development Minister said the heritage building was being proposed as the site for the second phase of Anjung Kasih to accommodate families of patients undergoing treatment at Sarawak General Hospital (SGH).

"In Kuching, Phase One is already at the SGH. Anjung Kasih is for families who are waiting while their loved ones are hospitalised," she told the media during the Ziarah Kasih programme at Kampung Tabuan Lot here yesterday.

The proposed Phase Two project at the former nurses' quarters will be renovated with the support of

the Sarawak government and other partners.

She said Yayasan OBYU would assist in the development of the second phase, while Yayasan Kebajikan Negara (YKN) would help provide fittings and internal facilities once construction works are completed.

"We are still waiting for the letter from the Welfare Department in Sarawak and also from the state government.

Once they have completed the construction, Yayasan Kebajikan

Negara will help to provide the fittings inside the building."

She explained that Anjung Kasih facilities were meant to provide temporary accommodation for family members who needed to remain near hospitals while caring for relatives undergoing treatment.

"Some families have to wait for months, especially those with cancer patients. They stay there while accompanying their loved ones."

On the capacity of the Kuching facility, she said it had yet to be

determined as renovation plans were still being finalised.

"At the moment, we cannot determine the capacity because the building has not been renovated yet. Once it is completed, we can see whether we can provide double-decker beds or single rooms. It can be designed similar to a hotel."

Nationwide, Nancy said there were currently 19 Anjung Kasih facilities located near major hospitals.

The ones in Peninsular Malaysia are mostly developed through

collaborations involving corporate sponsors by companies such as TNB and Sunway under Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah.

She added that such facilities were especially important in Sabah and Sarawak, where many patients from rural areas needed to commute far for treatment.

Nancy also said the government was exploring the possibility of establishing smaller Anjung Kasih facilities in rural areas to assist patients who travelled for regular treatments such as dialysis.

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